A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, December 1. 1711.

WHEN *Oliver Cromwell* fighting once at the Head of a Party of Horſe, long before he was a General, was over-power'd by the Number of the Party he was Engag'd with, and at the point of being beaten; the Officer that Commanded his Enemy making a home Charge, cries out —— *Now ye Dogs where's your Lord of Hoſts?* The Lord of Hoſts it ſeems was the Word; the People of a certain Side often gave for the Field of Battle —— *Oliver* turning to his Men cries out, *fall on, Gentlemen*, the Day's your own, *for the Enemy Blaſpheme*, and Riding up to the Officer aforeſaid, ſhot him Dead upon the ſpot.

When I find my Oppoſer mingle Raillery and ill Language with his Argument, the Battle is over, he neither needs to be fought with, nor deſerves it; he's Maſter of himſelf; and indeed I long ſince reſolv'd to give over talking to him, when he fouls his Mouth with Falſity and Forgery, that a Man muſt be forc'd to throw Dirt in his Teeth, or he cannot Anſwer him in kind.

I Anſwer therefore, his alledging *I am Employ'd*, his *Coupling me with Abel*, his ſaying *I am Pleading the ſame Cauſe*, &c. as my Bleſſed Redeemer anſwer'd the *Jews* that revil'd and ſpit upon him, *viz.* with the juſt Contempt of Silence; I hope the Pat-

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tern is not too high to quote, because we are directed to imitate it: I own it is my Affliction to be us'd so, having not given the least Occasion; but it is my Duty when I am Revil'd, not to revile again; Time, perhaps, will better inform any, that these People shall deceive; I only remember that this same Man Revil'd me in the same manner, with being Employ'd by the late Ministry, and flew as much in their Faces for Mismanagement, and in mine too, for defending them, *as he does now* —— And yet he cannot charge me with saying one Word which Contradicts any Thing I said then, or reflecting upon the Cause I ever espous'd, which, I hope, is a Cause of Truth.

The same Paper formerly Revil'd the *Review* for taking up the Cause of the Emperor, as an Ally; it Reviles him now, for not being willing to give the Strength of *Europe* into the Hands of the Emperor; it Revil'd the *Review*, because I was not for having the King of *Sweden* tear the Empire to pieces; it Reviles him now, because I would not have the *Swedes* torn to pieces —— It Revil'd the *Review*, when he defended the Administration under the late Ministry; it Reviles him now, when I am sure I am of the same Mind the Ministry were in when they began the War —— I might go back to his Reviling King *William*, but I say no more, nor shall I give any more Answers, (this Paper excepted) to any Thing he thinks fit to say, till he can assume so much of the Christian, as to say nothing but what he can prove, and so much of the Gentleman, as to give good Language,

I ask of him, and of any Man else, what Necessity we are under, to give the whole *Spanish* Monarchy either to one or other of the two Competitors?

To Answer all this, he quotes me several Leagues since the Grand Alliance —— Which, I think, are all to my purpose, not his — I verily believe, he either does not know, or does not care to come to what I am upon —— I am upon the Notion of giving the whole Monarchy of *Spain* to the same Person that is, or may be Emperor — And the *Observator* cannot confine himself to it, but brings me his Treaties and his Arguments, for giving it all to *Charles* III. to the Duke of *Savoy*, and I know not who — And what's all this to the purpose? Did I ever open my Mouth against giving it to either of these, while neither of them were Emperors? — But if either of them come to be Emperor —— Hold your Hand for God's sake, and for the Sake of all that's dear to Protestants in the World —— 'Tis not the Person of King *Charles*, or of any body, *but 'tis the Emperor*, let him be who he will —— He brings me a Treaty with *Portugal*, a Treaty with *Savoy* —— *with all my Heart* —— Give it to either of them, if you resolve not to part it, I'll say not a Word —— Give it to any Body but *France* or the Emperor; either this is *English* or it is not; I wonder Men that call themselves Scholars, and boast of their Learning so loudly, should not speak directly, and come to the Point —— The Emperor, the Emperor, I say again is the Case —— Not to *France*, not to the *Emperor*, 'tis the Person of the Emperor I mean, and all honest Men mean by the House of *Austria*: If the Duke of *Savoy*'s Title, and your Leagues with him oblige you —— give it to him —— give it to any Body that is not already Master of so much Power in *Europe*, as when this is added, may make him a Terror to the rest.

But we are under a Necessity to be Honest to our Leagues and Alliances, *I grant that*, and for that Reason, the Emperor ought not to have the *Spanish* Monarchy — But according to the express Stipulation of the Grand Alliance, to accept *an Equitable and Reasonable Satisfaction for his Pretensions to it*; I would fain know what Mystery there is in all this, that we should have so many struggles to hook in other Things into it, what I say, is as plain as the Sun at Noon-day.

It is the Undoubted Interest and Safety of Europe, *and of the Protestant Powers of*

of Europe, *that the* Spaniſh *Monarchy ſhould not be join'd in the Perſon of the Emperor, ſo as that one and the ſame Perſon ſhould be Emperor and King of* Spain *at the ſame Time: It was the Senſe of* Europe *at the Time of making the Grand Alliance, nor has any League or Alliance been ever made in* Europe, *which Contradicts it.*

If this be not ſpeaking plain, I profeſs myſelf not capable of ſpeaking plainer —— As to *a Partition*, I have given my Thoughts of it, and ſhall do it more publickly, only I ſhall add here almoſt all the Treaties that have been made, or making, have agreed to part and divide off ſome Branch or other from the *Spaniſh* Monarchy, and ſo were all Treaties of Partition; and yet forſooth, I muſt not be allow'd the Word; the Treaty of the Succeſſion and Barrier, gave ſome to the *Dutch*; the Treaty with the Duke of *Savoy* gave ſome to him; the Treaty with *Portugal* gave a large Parcel to him, too much to name, and the Treaty of *Ghertrudenbergh* would have given ſome more to King *Philip*, and yet muſt not I ſpeak of any *Partition?*

How pray can this Author reconcile thoſe little Partitions and Diſmembrings, to the litteral Senſe of the Parliament's Addreſs to the Queen, and the Queen's Anſwer to it?

Well, now I am to be Catechiz'd moſt Magiſterially by this Oppoſer, and I muſt Anſwer his Queries; if he would be ſatisfy'd with a candid, clear, full Anſwer, and own himſelf anſwer'd, when all the World and his own Conſcience will own it to him, I would anſwer him any Thing that I am able, and fairly acknowledge, when I cannot Anſwer; but I meet with no ſuch fair Uſage from him, but Railing for Anſwers, Forgery for Truth, Coupling me with *Jacobites* and Mad Men, and who can talk to a Man under ſuch Treatment as this? However, I'll try once if a fair Anſwer will prevail.

1. He Queries how I come to inſiſt ſo much upon the Danger of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, which he ſays I own to be remote, and only poſſible, and neglects to inſiſt on the Exorbitant Power of *France?*

How can this Author ask this Queſtion, when but in his very Paper before, he quotes a whole Column out of the *Review* of the firſt of *September*, wherein he fancies I Contradict myſelf —— Where I laid down my Opinion directly, againſt giving the *Spaniſh* Monarchy to the *French*; That it would be Diſtraction in the Miniſtry to think of it: That it would be all one with giving *Ireland* to them, and the like—— Did I not give this firſt as a Foundation, and laid it down to prevent the Scurrilous Reflections which I was to expect? Did he think I was Ignorant of this very Clamour? And has he not anſwer'd this Query for me by quoting it? However, if that will be any Satisfaction, I ſhall ſtill, and upon all Occaſions, with equal plainneſs, declare my Opinion againſt all *French* Exorbitance, and not think it a vain Repetition, and perhaps may do it as I have done, when others, that talk ſo loudly of it dare not open their Mouths: I have wrote this Paper near Eight Years; it began with *French* Exorbitance, it has conſtantly expos'd it and all its Abettors, and it never intermitted, or ever ſhall intermit an Occaſion to do ſo ſtill as long as it is a Paper, or that Exorbitance remains, and I think I need no prompting to it; let him ſhew me a Word in favour of it if he can: But is *Auſtrian* Greatneſs ſo remote! when you are puſhing to ſet him up in that very State, in which he before made all the *Proteſtant World* to Tremble?—— I think now is the Seaſon to ſpeak, *Pauper ubique jacet, French Greatneſs*, you have always before you, and he muſt have no Head, no Eyes, no Ears, that can want to be admoniſh'd of that: But this Monſter is not ſo well known, this is *Anguis in Herba*, not one in a Thouſand ſaw the Danger of it before; and I bleſs God from my Soul, let it anger whoever it will, that I have been made an Inſtrument

ſrument to open the Eyes of any to warn them of the Danger, and let them ſee it, that *Engliſh Proteſtants* may not, *as they have too often, and oftener than any other Nation*, betray the reſt of the *Proteſtant Churches* to Ruin and Deſtruction.

2. He Queries, *Whether the Houſe of* Auſtria *Entertains any Pretender*, &c.? Anſwer, No —— If he has any other Meaning in it, than what the above Anſwer includes, he ſhall have an Anſwer when I know it.

3. *Whether we have not an Audacious, Inſolent Party who ſupport the* French *Pretender's Claim, drink his Health*, &c. *and own his Title at the Head of the City Train'd Bands*, &c.?

Anſwer, Whether I have not ſufficiently declar'd in Print, againſt the Practice and Perſons too, in a manner the Queriſt dare not do——— And what is all this to the purpoſe?

4. *Whether it be ſafeſt to truſt* Auſtria *or* France? For that is the full of his Queſtion.

Anſwer, It is ſtill ſafeſt of all to truſt neither of them, which is all that I am Arguing for.

5. *Whether, tho'* Auſtria *were as great as* Bourbonne, *which he ſays is falſe, WE are in ſuch Danger of an Invaſion from* Spain, *or the* Auſtrian *Dominions in* Germany, *as we are in from* France; *and if we were, whether* Auſtria *have ſuch a Party among us to join them, as the* French *are ſure of?*

Anſwer, No, WE are not, but the poor *Proteſtants of Germany* are in far more Danger, and this is the Argument I am enforcing, That our true *Selfiſh* Spirit is ſo full of our own Views, that we are Betraying our Proteſtant Brethren into the Hands of the *Auſtrian* Power, upon a preſumption that WE are out of Danger, whereas, by all I have been ſaying it appears, we have it now in our Hands to ſave them and ourſelves too.

If this is not a full Anſwer, I am ready to make it ſo; and if he has any more Queſtions to ask, I am ready to give a fair Anſwer to them all.

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